

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

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R 191330Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7727

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATOBRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2295

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA

REF: COPENHAGEN 2225

SUBJ: ANKER JORGENSEN CONSOLIDATES CONTROL OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY

SUMMARY: MAJOR QUESTION OF CURRENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS

-- THE LEADERSHIP OF ANKER JORGENSEN-- HAS BEEN DECISIVELY SETTLED  
IN PRIME MINISTER'S FAVOR. CONGRESS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO MAKE  
JORGENSEN CHAIRMAN OF PARTY, AS WELL AS PRIME MINISTER, REJECTING  
PROPOSAL TO GIVE CHAIRMANSHIP TO MORE CONSERVATIVE FIGURE. BY  
LEAVING PARTY'S CENTER OF GRAVITY SOMEWHAT LEFT OF CENTER, LEADERS  
ARE GAMBLING THAT, IN TWO YEARS REMAINING BEFORE REQUIRED ELECTIONS,  
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JORGENSEN WILL BE ABLE TO UNIFY PARTY AND REVERSE DECLINE IN POPULAR

SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. QUESTION OF JORGENSEN'S LEADERSHIP WAS RAISED BY ONE OF FIRST SPEAKERS IN GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE SEPTEMBER 17, WHO ASKED WHETHER CONGRESS SHOULD FOLLOW JORGENSEN'S LEFT OF CENTER LINE OR SEEK TO REGAIN LOST POPULAR SUPPORT BY MOVING BACK TOWARD CENTER OF DANISH POLITICS, AS SUGGESTED BY ORLA MOLLER, CHAIRMAN OF PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. DELEGATES SETTLED THAT QUESTION FOLLOWING DAY BY REJECTING OVERWHELMINGLY PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE POSTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY CHAIRMAN, THUS CLEARING WAY FOR JORGENSEN TO HOLD BOTH POSTS.

2. PM'S VICTORY IS DUE TO SEVERAL CAUSES: CONGRESS DELEGATES ARE MORE LEFTIST THAN EXPECTED, AS BECAME APPARENT WHEN NIELS ENEVOLDSEN, PARTY'S YOUTH GROUP CHAIRMAN, RECEIVED SUSTAINED APPLAUSE FOR UNCOM-PROMISING DEFENSE OF PARTY'S ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL. "HOLD FAST TO ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY" HAS BECOME UNOFFICIAL MOTTO OF CONGRESS, REQUIRING SKILLFUL HANDLING BY JORGENSEN, WHO HAD ALREADY COMMENCED RETREAT ON THIS TOUCHY MATTER.

3. CONFRONTATION WITH PARTY'S LEFT-WING WAS AVOIDED BY PROPOSAL SPONSORED BY THREE KEY MP'S TO ESTABLISH AD HOC COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OVER DANISH ROLE IN EC. COMMITTEE AGREED ON COMPROMISE STATEMENT IDENTIFYING DENMARK'S OBJECTIVE IN EC MEMBERSHIP AS PROMOTION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. THIS STATEMENT GIVES LEFT-WING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GRACEFUL RETURN TO PARTY'S MAIN STREAM AND COULD SIGNIFY FINAL BURIAL OF DIVISIVE ISSUE WITHIN PARTY.

4. PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT BY JORGENSEN THAT HE WOULD REORGANIZE CABINET FOLLOWING CONGRESS WAS EFFECTIVE TACTICAL MANEUVER, REMINDING POTENTIAL RIVALS THAT THEIR POLITICAL FUTURES DEPENDED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE AT CONGRESS. CONSEQUENTLY, NEITHER RIGHT-WING NOR LEFT-WING FACTIONS WERE ABLE TO FIND LEADERS WILLING TO HAZARD THEIR FUTURES BY OPPOSING PRIME MINISTER.

5. FINALLY, JORGENSEN'S EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE IN RESPONDING TO CRITICISM DURING GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE IS SEEN AS TURNING POINT. IN FACTUAL PRESENTATION, OFTEN INTERSPERSED WITH HUMOR, JORGENSEN LAID OUT PARTY POLICY ON LONG SERIES OF PROBLEMS. HE  
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ADMITTED THAT PARTY HAD BEEN HURT BADLY BY PRESS CRITICISM REGARDING HIPPIY HAVEN CHRISTIANIA, SUBSIDY FOR PORNOGRAPHIC "JESUS FILM", AND MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS MATTHIASSEN'S CRITICISM OF CATHOLIC CHURCH. HE DEFENDED GOVT POLICY ON CHRISTIANIA AS MEANS OF LOCALIZING A SOCIAL PROBLEM IN ORDER TO SEEK ITS SOLUTION. IN MILD REBUKE TO HIS CULTURAL MINISTER, HE CONCEDED THAT LATTER'S MORE MODERATE, CORRECTED STATEMENT WAS BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL. ON SUBSIDY QUESTION, JORGENSEN ASKED RHETORICALLY, "JUST WHAT IS IT WE ARE BEING

CRITICIZED FOR? FOR A SUBSIDY GIVEN BY A FILM BOARD WHOSE INDEPENDEN-

DENCE FROM GOVT INFLUENCE WAS SPELLED OUT IN LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND PASSED BY THE PRESENT OPPOSITION"" HE CONCLUDED BY RESPONDING TO QUESTION REGARDING PARTY'S PROPER STANCE: "WE STAND TO THE LEFT OF THE MIDDLE. WE ARE A MODERN PARTY WHICH STRIVES FOR SOMETHING. WE CANNOT BE SATISFIED MERELY TO FIND OUT WHERE THE MIDDLE IN DANISH POLITICS IS AND TO PLACE OURSELVES THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE OPEN TO ARGUMENTS FROM PARTIES THAT LIE IN THE MIDDLE." SPEECH WAS RECEIVED WITH SOLID, SUSTAINED APPLAUSE, WHICH LEFT NO DOUBT THAT ANKER JORGENSEN HAD TAKEN COMMAND OF THE PARTY.

6. COMMENT: WHETHER PARTY'S LEFT OF CENTER LINE WILL PROVE POLITICALLY WISE REMAINS OPEN TO QUESTION. INDICATIONS FROM RECENT POLLS SHOW PARTY LOSING ITS MORE CONSERVATIVE, MIDDLE-CLASS VOTERS TO THE RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES. CONSEQUENTLY, PARTY POLICY AS CURRENTLY DEFINED REPRESENTS A MAJOR GAMBLE THAT ANKER JORGENSEN'S LEFT-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP WILL BE ABLE TO UNIFY THE PARTY AND REGAIN LOST GROUND WITHIN ELECTORATE BEFORE NEXT ELECTIONS. IT ALSO PRESUPPOSES THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVT WILL BE ABLE TO STAVE OFF GENERAL ELECTIONS UNTIL 1975.  
CROWE

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